

The 4th Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022



Christ's Charge to Peter, by Raphael (1515)



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On Friday, all was lost. Richard Dawkins and his smirking acolytes had got it right, blast them. I know the atheist recital better than most. Religion is a busted flush. The dream turned out to be fantasy. Perhaps we got carried away by the charisma. But now, it seems, the one we followed had over-promised. So, it's time to pack up our chalices and do something useful. Time to admit the truth: it had all been a lie and a waste. But that was Friday. On Sunday, just before dawn, a group of us gathered outside church and kindled a small bonfire. From there we passed the flame to a large candle and processed it into the nave; the tentative, flickering light illuminating the dark corners of the building. And from that large candle, we lit our own individual candles, passing the light from one to another. Everything now starts again. Hallelujah, Christ is risen. Without this, the Christian faith is nonsense. The resurrection is not a philosophical argument. That's why scepticism about the empty tomb just bounces off the surface. As Jonathan Swift was right to say, you can't reason people out of something they weren't reasoned into. The resurrection is more an identity than an argument. That's why we turn it into participatory theatre, with incense and candles. It is who we are; our word for how we go on in the face of overwhelming odds. It's the Christian term for defiance.

Mine can be a tough parish. Stuff is always going on. After Easter mass, a car screeched into our car park and crashed into a wall. Four guys got out and had a fight. Then they got back in the car and drove off. Stuff like this happens all the time; indeed I called the police three times on Easter. And it's not just the daily round of hassle. We have no money, a heating system that doesn't work, a church hall that was recently burned by bored teenagers and, most challenging of all, a community that isn't really a community, but often a place people simply pass through. Even the old flats at Heygate have been demolished and their long-term residents pushed further out of town to make way for the younger and wealthier. Change and decay is all around I see. All this sounds pretty miserable. But the resurrection is the name we give to the multiple ways we push back against the darkness. Likewise, between Christmas and Easter, we opened up the church to the homeless, with local people, both churchgoers and non-churchgoers, teaming up to cook food and provide guests with a safe place to sleep. One couple cuddled up under the altar. I did breakfast duty, bacon and eggs. Do I believe in resurrection? Of course, I do. And I believe in it by frying bacon and refusing to give up. This Easter rising is not just some fancy intellectual idea, it's a form of praxis.

I know the Church of England is supposed to be dying. And there are those who want to save it with management theory and evangelical up-speak. But if we as a church really believe in death and resurrection, then we don't need any of that secular sorcery. There's been a priest in my parish continuously since the reign of King John in the 13th century. Politicians call it resilience. I call it resurrection.

Giles Fraser, *'The Resurrection isn't an Argument. It's the Christian word for defiance.* The Guardian, March 2016.

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you are with us today! If you are new to our church, you may not be familiar with the Lutheran liturgy. No worries. This bulletin is designed to help guide you through the worship service. We encourage you to participate in as much or as little of the service as you feel comfortable. Thank you for being a part of our worship. We hope that the Lord blesses you through our time together!

Restrooms, Changing Stations, and Nursing Room

Restrooms are located in the lobby (narthex) of the sanctuary. Both the men's and women's rooms have diaper changing tables for the little ones.

We also have a nursing room for mothers and babies that is located across the breezeway, straight out of the doors on the east side of the lobby.

Children in the Liturgy

We pray that all children would know that God made them, He loves them, and He goes with them everywhere. We are glad to have little ones with us in the service. We know that they sometimes can squirm, squawk, and squeal. Please don't feel embarrassed by it! All kids are always welcome here at St. Paul. We encourage you to help them follow along and engage with them in the action of the liturgy – observe the movement of the procession, hear the music, sing the songs, smell the fire of the candles, respond with a loud *Amen*, make the sign of the cross, touch the water in the baptismal font, and wonder at the images and symbols that are all around. What Jesus does here is sure to engage us all.

A Note on Holy Communion

In this service we celebrate a sacred ritual of the Christian Church called the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. In this rite we recall the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples. In this blessed meal we have our eyes opened and we recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. Though our faith is grounded in history, this liturgy is not merely a nostalgic looking back at the past – it is a celebration and a deep recognition that in this meal our Lord Jesus Christ is truly and really present with us in the bread and the wine. We cling to the hope of resurrection that will be ours when all things will be fully redeemed and restored in Him. All baptized Christians who have a sincere sorrow for their sin and see in this holy mystery the true body and blood of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Service Notes

The scripture lessons today are characterized by pivotal encounters with God. The conversion of Paul in Acts is one of the more dramatic accounts in Scripture about the power of God to transform lives; the foremost persecutor of the early church becomes its leading champion. John's gospel describes Jesus giving Peter the opportunity to reaffirm his love for Christ. After Peter declares his commitment, Jesus charges Peter to "Feed my sheep." This command reveals the good news of Christ's resurrected life; a life devoted to the care and service of others.

Greeting and Welcome

The congregation stands and faces the back of the sanctuary. We begin with a procession as the cross leads the way, representing our life in Christ – our journey from death to life. Some bow as the cross passes, honoring the mystery of salvation.

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (466)

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.
Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo; And in its conquest His might did show.
Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there."
Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

"Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

Invocation

En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo.

All Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us
All But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.

All Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.

Cristo, ten piedad de nosotros.

All Cristo, ten piedad de nosotros.

Señor, ten piedad de nosotros

All Señor, ten piedad de nosotros

Silence is Kept

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

All Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Let us pray

All Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Scripture Readings

Acts 9:1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go

to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Revelation 5:1-14

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp

and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving[b] our God, and they will reign on earth." Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.

All Glory to You, O Lord.

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now

none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said, "Follow me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed

All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection ☩ of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Ancient Words

Holy words...long preserved for our walk...in this world
They resound with God's own heart; oh, let the ancient words impart.

Words of life...words of hope give us strength...help us cope
In this world where e'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts; oh, let the ancient words impart.

Holy words...of our faith, handed down...to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice. Oh, heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words...long preserved for our walk...in this world
They resound with God's own heart; oh, let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts; oh, let the ancient words impart.

Sermon

The Prayer of the Church

After the pastor says Lord in Your Mercy, all respond with **Hear our Prayer.**

**For a Blessed Easter Season as we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus
For blessing in our outreach; CDC; LINC, Presa Community Center.
Pastors Philip, Roy, Naresh, Matt and all church planters.
For peace, for the well-being of the Church, and for the unity of all.
For U.S. Leaders: President Joe, Governor Greg, Mayor Ron.
Church Leaders; LCMS President Matt, District President Mike.
For those in Military: Jarred, Alissa, Mark, Tom, Thomas, Ricky, Julian
For the strength and divine energy to turn toward our enemies in love.**

For Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

The people of Ukraine

Eddie and the family of Henrietta Fernandez

Eddie Matull

Tillie Cropper

Sue Burgdorfer

Diane Beasley

Teresa Medellin (neighbor of Alicia Guerrero)

Rosa Figueroa (friend of Alva-Alicia)

Reina Cox

Jo Ann Mallow

Mildred Westphal

Joyce Bauer

Daniel Stubbs

Robert Farris (brother-in-law of Susan Pennington)

Jenna, Sarah, Samuel (friends of Michael Cruz)

Earline Willeford

Albert Pedroza (neighbor of Thomas Robledo)

Norma Ann (sister of Patricia Perez)

Rev. Bill Johnson

Beatrice (sister of America Alderete)

Michael Dean (nephew of Melissa and Jim Hild)

Cayley (granddaughter of Robert and Linda Chetwood)

Delia Flores

Everett and Keith Mason

Yesenia (daughter of Anna Marquez)

Vicky Dean (sister of Melissa Hild)

Austin Hernden

Robin Beasley Jr

The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Offering

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (805)

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Service of the Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, angels and archangels and the whole of creation speaks forever of your glory:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen!**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and dearth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy, we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us to in His own testament. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate, with all the faithful, the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

All Amen!

The Consecration

The Acclamation and The Invitation

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

La paz del Señor sea con ustedes.

All Y también contigo

Sharing of the Peace

Please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying 'Peace be with you' as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for reception of the Holy Supper.

The Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Eucharistic Dismissal

Thank The Lord

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; Tell everyone what He has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord, Rejoice, and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises, and leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You, that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (594)

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood!

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

Serving Today @ St. Paul

Music	Jim Wollmann, Ronnie Biediger, Judy Foerster	
Duty Elders	George Fernandez, Rick Garza, Paul Mallow	
Altar Server	Juan Munoz Jr.	
Lector	Michael Cruz	
Preacher/Celebrant	Rev. Dave Murillo	(davem@stpaulsa.org)
CDC Director	Deborah Stephenson	(deborahs@stpaulsa.org)
Deaconess	Claire Jackson	

Announcements

Bible Study Opportunities This Week

We have ongoing online zoom classes throughout the week – all are invited!
(Meeting ID #2105327341 No Password required)

Monday @ 6:30 (Deaconess Claire – Women’s Bible Study)

Thursday @ 6:30 (Pastor Carlos – Study on the book of Acts)

Sunday School and Bible Class

We have Sunday School classes for children and adults every week @ 9:30.

Concordia Seminary Symposium

Please keep Pastor Dave and Pastoral Intern Michael in your prayers as they head to St. Louis this week for the Multiethnic Symposium at Concordia Seminary. While there Michael will also be participating in *Contemplate* – an event designed to give university students interested in pastoral ministry an opportunity to learn about the seminary and the spiritual formation process.

Laundry Love

Join us Wednesday at the EZ Wash (3503 S. Presa) as we serve from 6-8pm.

Henrietta Fernandez Memorial Service

The service for Henrietta will be here at St. Paul on May the 14th @ 10am. There will be a reception following the service in the gym – everyone is invited to attend and bring a dish or dessert to share.

Upcoming Events

May 8 – The 4th Sunday of Easter/Mothers Day with special Gift for moms

May 29 – The Feast of the Ascension with the Rite of Confirmation

June 5 – The Feast of Pentecost with Outdoor Worship and Block Party

